

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment after final Office Action. Applicants did not make these amendments earlier because we believed the previous amendments were sufficient. Applicants have further amended the claims to better define the invention.

Claims 1-2, 4-12 and 14-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable by Culli et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,304,641) in view of Partridge, III (U.S. 5,473,671).

The embodiment of Culli et al. discloses a call forwarding system for an advanced intelligent network telecommunications environment. A calling party places a call which attempts to contact the destination by dialing an old telephone number of the called party. Upon recognizing that the calling party has called a telephone number which has been changed, the call is forwarded with a three digit code to a hub switch. The hub switch recognizes the three digit code, and determines the new telephone number and whether the destination has elected to pay for forwarding the call to the new telephone number. The system can also determine whether the calling party has elected to pay for forwarding the call to the new telephone number. See Col. 5, ll. 20-25. The call is completed if either the called party or the calling party has elected to pay for forwarding the call. The embodiment of Culli et al. does not disclose or suggest a system for allowing a called party to share their new number with some selected people, while keeping the new number a secret from other selected people.

Partridge, III discloses selective screening of incoming calls for cellular telephone systems. A list of accepted callers is maintained by a service supplier. When a call comes in, a determination is made as to whether the caller is an "accepted" caller. If so, the call is forwarded to the cellular telephone. Otherwise, the caller is offered the option to pay for the call. A willingness of the part of the caller to pay for the call is indicated by a signal from the caller, such as pressing a key on the DTMG pad. In response to the signal, the call is forwarded to the cellular telephone. In the absence of a signal, the call is disconnected or diverted. See Abstract.

Claims 1, 11 and 21 as amended recite, among other things, that the first announcement is provided to the calling party "only if the calling party is authorized by the called party" to receive the announcement. Therefore, the calling party only receives the announcement is authorized, and the calling party can only be authorized by the called party to receive the announcement. None of the cited references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest at least

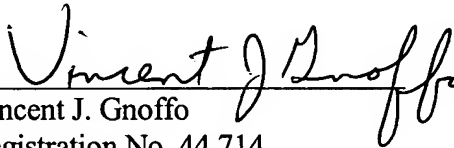
this feature. In fact the prior art discloses that the called party could receive the announcement, such as forwarding information, if the called party pays for it. For example, the embodiment of Culli et al. provides for the calling party to pay to have their call forwarded to the called party if the called party has not paid for call forwarding. See e.g. Col. 5, ll. 20-25. This could not happen in a system of the claimed invention. Likewise, the system of Partridge, III gives the caller the option to pay to have a call forwarded to a cell phone of the called party. See e.g. Abstract. The claimed invention allows a person, such as a victim of domestic violence, to decide those that they want to share their new phone number with. In such a way, the called party could maintain their new number in secret. Since neither the embodiment of Culli et al. nor Partridge, III, disclose or suggest claimed features, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claims 1, 11 and 21 be withdrawn.

Claims 2 and 4-10 depend from claim 1, claims 12 and 14-20 depend from claim 11 and claims 22-24 depend from claim 21, either directly or indirectly, and therefore include all of the features of their respective dependent claims, plus additional features. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above with regard to claim 1, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to these claims also be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

For at least the above-identified reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the application be allowed. If for any reason, the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, she is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys at (312) 321-4200.

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